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REPORT

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 GSA GEN. REG. NO. 27

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1. AGENCY USE ONLY (Leave blank)		2. REPORT DATE April 1993		3. REPORT TYPE AND DATES COVERED professional paper	
4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE FEATURE ASSOCIATION WITHOUT A MOTION ESTIMATE				5. FUNDING NUMBER In-house funding	
6. AUTHOR(S) R. L. Ricks					
7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) Naval Command, Control and Ocean Surveillance Center (NCCOSC) RDT&E Division San Diego, CA 92152-5001					
9. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) Naval Command, Control and Ocean Surveillance Center (NCCOSC) RDT&E Division San Diego, CA 92152-5001				10. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY REPORT NUMBER	
11. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES					
12a. DISTRIBUTION/AVAILABILITY STATEMENT Approved for public release; distribution is unlimited.				12b. DISTRIBUTION CODE	
13. ABSTRACT (Maximum 200 words) The problem of associating the features of a moving object in sequential images without estimates of object motion or structure (relative position of features) is addressed. A method is presented and analyzed for associating features even if some of the features are occluded (not visible in one or more of the images of interest). The method models the object as a rigid set of point reflectors each with independent reflectivity that is correlated from image to image. (Compare with Swerling case 3.) Object motion is modeled as a circular trajectory in a known plane. It requires measurements of position plus Doppler. Such measurements are available from monopulse radar and some sonar and laser imaging systems. The method assumes all possible associations and minimizes the least trimmed squares (LTS) of error residuals to remove erroneous associations. Byproducts of the minimization include estimates of object motion and feature structure.					
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>93 5 08 5</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>93-12069</p> </div> </div>					
Published in <i>Fourth Navy R&D Information Exchange Conference</i> , April 1993.					
14. SUBJECT TERMS				15. NUMBER OF PAGES	
				16. PRICE CODE	
17. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF REPORT UNCLASSIFIED		18. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF THIS PAGE UNCLASSIFIED		19. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF ABSTRACT UNCLASSIFIED	
				20. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT SAME AS REPORT	

UNCLASSIFIED

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Feature Association

Without a Motion Estimate

1 ABSTRACT

The problem of associating the features of a moving object in sequential images without estimates of object motion or structure (relative position of features) is addressed. A method is presented and analyzed for associating features even if some of the features are occluded (not visible in one or more of the images of interest). The method models the object as a rigid set of point reflectors each with independent reflectivity that is correlated from image to image. (Compare with Swerling case 3.) Object motion is modeled as a circular trajectory in a known plane. It requires measurements of position plus Doppler. Such measurements are available from monopulse radar and some sonar and laser imaging systems. The method assumes all possible associations and minimizes the least trimmed squares (LTS) of error residuals to remove erroneous associations. Byproducts of the minimization include estimates of object motion and feature structure.

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